Act, 1995 with a view to providing wider representation to Employees and Employers on the Wage Boards.

Investments by MMTC

39. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) has chalked out any plan to invest huge amounts in infrastructure and trade logistics or joint ventures;

(b) if so, the details thereof, area-wise; and

(c) by when these investments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) MMTC proposes to expand and diversify its involement in Minerals & Ores, Metals, Fertilizers, Gem & Jewellery, Agro and Marine Products and Textiles as well as in development of trade related infrastructue such as port development and setting up of warehouses. No time-frame for these proposed investments can be indicated at this stage.

Coal demanded by power Project at Mangalore in Karnataka

40. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power project at Mangalore in Karnataka has demanded coal for its utilisation;

(b) if so, the annual demand of coal thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet the requirement of the power project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Recently a private company has requested for coal linkage for a 1000 MW captive power plant proposed to be set up at Nandikur near Mangalore in Karnataka for which the demand is for 5 million tonnes of coal per annum. The question of coal linkage may be considered on receipt of further information and other relevant details from the applicant.

Proposal to Increase Export of Rice

41. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister COMMERCE of be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 5865 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th May, 1995 and to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase the export of rice;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Measures initiated to enhance export of rice inter-alia include:

(i) Removal of all price and quantity restrictions on the export of both basmati and non-basmati rice;

(ii) Food Corporation of India has also been permitted to export/sell for export 2.0 million MTs of fine and superfine rice from the central pool during 1995-96;

(iii) assistance in organising overseas campaigns and participation in trade fairs/exhibitions;

(iv) providing financial assistance to exporters in improving quality, packing, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys etc.